

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed August 13, 2003.

Objection to the Abstract

The Abstract was objected to because it exceeded 150 words. Applicant has amended the abstract to be less than 150 words. Thus, Applicant submits that this objection has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1-5, 7-18, 20-31 and 33-45 were rejected under § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,298,474 B1 to Blowers et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, in part: “wherein said automatically generating the program comprises automatically generating a graphical user interface for the program; wherein said generating the graphical user interface comprises creating user interface controls associated with the one or more parameters.” Applicant respectfully submits that these limitations are not taught or suggested in the Blowers reference.

With respect to “automatically generating a graphical user interface for the program” the Office Action cites column 3 lines 15-20. This cited portion of Blowers refers to a method “for developing a graphical control flow structure such as a tree structure and associated application software for use in a machine vision system utilizing a computer system.” This cited portion also states that “The structure includes a control sequence having at least one node.” Thus, this cited portion of Blowers refers to the user’s creation of the control flow structure, which presumably specifies the machine vision algorithm the user desires to create. This cited portion does not appear to at all relate to a graphical user interface or to automatically creating a graphical user interface.

The Office Action also refers to column 3 lines 1-5 and 24-30 of Blowers. These cited portions of Blowers use the term “controls”. Applicant submits that the Blowers patent uses the term “controls” in a different manner than the “user interface controls” referred to in the present claims. In the present application and claims, the term “user

interface controls” refers to a graphical user interface element which may be included in a graphical user interface which enables the user to either provide input to a program or display output from a program. For example, Applicant refers to the specification at page 8 lines 25-31. This portion of the specification notes that “the user interface control for a given input parameter is operable to receive user input, such as during program execution, and provide this input to the associated operation in the program. Similarly, the user interface control for a given output parameter is operable to receive output data from the program such as during program execution, and display this output to the user.” Thus, the present application utilizes the term “user interface control” to refer to an element in a graphical user interface for either receiving user input or displaying output to the user. In contrast, the Blowers patent uses the term “control” to refer to a type of software program, e.g., an Active X control. In the Blowers context, the term “control” refers to a particular type of software program corresponding to a certain control or object standard such as Active X. Thus, for example, the cited portion of Blowers at column 3 lines 1-5 refers to standard controls such as Active X controls. These Active X controls are discussed as being able to provide inputs or outputs to other tools or other Active X controls. Thus, the controls referred to in Blowers, e.g., at column 3 lines 24-30, do not refer to graphical user interface elements, but rather refer to a certain type of software program. Thus the reference to “controls” in Blowers does not teach the user interface controls recited in the present claims.

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Blowers patent and believes that Blowers does not teach or suggest at least the above recited limitations of claim 1. Applicant notes that Figures 7 and 8 of Blowers illustrate a screen display that is used by a user to create a task or sequence, i.e., Figures 7 and 8 illustrate a task sequencer list. The screen displays in Figures 7 and 8 of Blower are used by the user to specify steps in a sequence and configure parameters in the various tasks the user is creating. Applicant notes the Blowers reference at column 9 lines 7-25 where the operation of saving and executing a desired sequence is discussed. As noted at column 9 line 13 “once the desired sequence has been created, it can be stored or saved in a condensed method within an inspection sequence file 52 which is usable by the engine 46.” The paragraph in Blowers at column 9 lines 16-25 describes how the engine 46 executes the sequence file 52 utilizing a

runtime screen as shown in Figure 9 of Blowers. Applicant respectfully submits that the runtime screen shown in Figure 9 does not satisfy the limitation of “wherein said programmatically generating the program comprises programmatically generating a graphical user interface for the program.” As described in Blowers at column 9 lines 16-25, the runtime screen shown in Figure 9, which is evidently displayed when a sequence is executed, is a standard predefined screen that is the same for every sequence that is executed. This runtime screen is not programmatically generated during generation of the program. Further, Blowers does not teach or suggest that programmatic generation of the graphical user interface (which does not exist in Blowers) comprises creating user interface controls associated with various parameters. Rather, Blowers evidently teaches a single generic runtime screen that is displayed with every sequence it executes. The runtime screen in Figure 9 of Blowers appears substantially like the sequence creation screens in Figures 7 and 8, except that a results interface 60 (not labeled in Figure 9) also evidently appears. According to Applicant’s understanding of Blowers, this results interface window is generic to all sequences and is not programmatically generated based on parameters in the program being generated.

One important feature of the method of the present application is that a graphical user interface is automatically generated during automatic generation of a program. This automatic generation of the graphical user interface comprises automatically creating user interface controls associated with parameters of the functional operations contained in the prototype created by the user. This is simply not performed in the system of Blowers et al. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are allowable over the Blowers reference.

Claim Amendments

Applicant has cancelled certain claims to clarify the subject matter being claimed. In particular, Applicant has cancelled claims 2, 15, 28, and 41 because the term “automatically generating” was deemed to be substantially synonymous with “programmatically generating”. For example, Applicant refers to the Summary of the Invention at page 7, line 3 where “automatically generating” is equated to “programmatically generating”. The term “automatically generating” generally means

that the generation is performed automatically by software executing on the computer, as opposed to manual creation by the user. (Applicant notes that manual creation by a user generally requires user selection and assembly of respective elements, e.g., of a program or user interface, in the creation process, whereas automatic generation does not require such user selection and assembly of respective elements). Thus, claims 2, 15, 28, and 41 were not considered to further limit the subject matter of their respective independent claims. Thus, Applicant has cancelled claims 2, 15, 28, and 41.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5150-43700/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☐ Request for Approval of Drawing Changes
- ☐ Notice of Change of Address
- ☐ Check in the amount of \$ for fees ().
- ☐ Other:

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey C. Hood
Reg. No. 35,198
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800
Date: 11/13/2003